



Special Edition: Reunion 2019

We are very excited to bring you the details of the 2019 Reunion of the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, which promises to be the most vibrant, exciting, and full featured reunion in recent years. This is the reunion you do not want to miss!

Our theme this year is remembering the 75th anniversary of D-Day of World War II, and all of the men and women who lost their lives during that great conflagration.

You'll notice a distinct militaristic vibe during the weekend, but there is something for everyone.

We've never had such honored and distinguished **guests**.

Friday evening we will hear from CSM **Gary Littrell**, recipient of our nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, for his heroic actions during the Vietnam War. While in the Valley, Gary has graciously agreed to pay a visit to Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro. **See page 2.**

At Saturday's lunch in the gym, another war hero, **CWO5 David F. Cooper** will recount how he risked his life to save many others in Iraq. David received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions. **See page 3.**

We are incredibly fortunate to have both of these men speak to us from their heart and for the good of the nation. They both volunteer their time for events such as ours, and neither are paid to appear. Their expenses are provided for by AMA, largely through the kind and generous donation of air miles by American Airlines.

In keeping with our theme honoring the 75th anniversary of D-Day and all veterans, there will be a display of military vehicles and a group of World War II reenactors on campus Saturday.

The **Holiday Inn** will once again host our reunion. Fantastic

room rates of \$93 have been negotiated this year. That's considerably less than other hotels in the area. **BUT**, you must reserve your room by April 11 to receive that rate, and there are a limited but adequate number of rooms available for that rate. So don't delay, reserve your room today!

The **Thursday evening** reception will be held in the Augusta Commons room at the Holiday Inn where we will socialize, honor faculty members, and have dinner.

Friday will feature a bus tour to Bedford, Virginia to visit the National D-Day Memorial. Details are on page 4.

Friday will also feature, as in years past, our traditional clay shoot and our round of golf. See page 7.

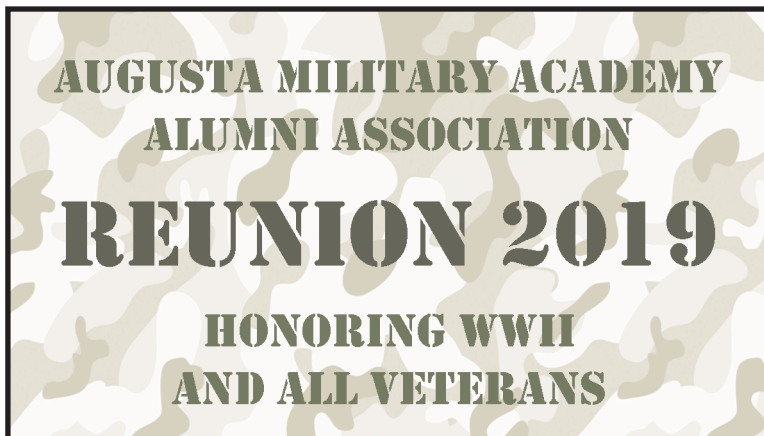
Friday evening, we will gather in the Holiday Inn ballroom where we will enjoy a dinner and listen to Medal of Honor Recipient Gary Littrell. Scholarships will also be awarded.

Saturday, we begin with our annual meetings of the Foundation and the Association where members will be elected and officers selected for each organization. Founder's Day ceremony at the Old Stone Church cemetery begins

at 11:00 AM sharp, followed by activities at the gym, which this year include our silent auction, lunch, a message from Distinguished Service Cross recipient David Cooper and presentation of AMA Medals and induction into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

Saturday evening we return to the Augusta Commons room for dinner, presentation of golf and clay shoot awards and a full night of fellowship in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

All events at the Holiday Inn feature a cash bar, and we will NOT be having a hospitality suite per se with free drinks as in the past.



Featured guest

Gary Littrell

Medal of Honor Recipient



Gary Littrell is the featured speaker during the Friday evening banquet at the Holiday Inn Ballroom.

Personal Awards:

Medal of Honor

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star (3)

Purple Heart

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal

Army Commendation Medal

**Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with
bronze star device**

Combat Infantryman Badge

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sfc. Littrell, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Advisory Team 21, distinguished himself while serving as a Light Weapons Infantry Adviser with the 23d Battalion, 2nd Ranger Group, Republic Of Vietnam Army, near Dak Seang. After establishing a defensive perimeter on a hill on April 4, the battalion was subjected to an intense enemy mortar attack which killed the Vietnamese commander, one adviser, and seriously wounded all the advisers except Sfc. Littrell. During the ensuing 4 days, Sfc. Littrell exhibited near superhuman endurance as he singlehandedly bolstered the besieged battalion. Repeatedly abandoning positions of relative safety, he directed artillery and air support by day and marked the unit's location by night, despite the heavy, concentrated enemy fire. His dauntless will instilled in the men of the 23d Battalion a deep desire to resist. Assault after assault was repulsed as the battalion responded to the extraordinary leadership and personal example exhibited by Sfc. Littrell as he continuously moved to those points most seriously threatened by the enemy, redistributed ammunition, strengthened faltering defenses, cared for the wounded and shouted encouragement to the Vietnamese in their own language. When the beleaguered battalion was finally ordered to withdraw, numerous ambushes were encountered. Sfc. Littrell repeatedly prevented widespread disorder by directing air strikes to within 50 meters of their position. Through his indomitable courage and complete disregard for his safety, he averted excessive loss of life and injury to the members of the battalion. The sustained extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sfc. Littrell over an extended period of time were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him and the U.S. Army.

Featured guest

David F. Cooper

Distinguished Service Cross Recipient



David F. Cooper is the featured speaker during the Saturday Luncheon at the Gym.

After landing to assist his wingman who had crashed after sustaining significant damage to his tail rotor from hostile fire, CW5 Cooper and his co-pilot moved to their aircraft under direct enemy fire and took off in order to better assess the situation and provide much-needed suppression on the enemy forces. With complete disregard for his safety and in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, CW5 Cooper flew his lone aircraft directly at the enemy and began to engage them. Though well aware that his chances of getting shot down were very high, he refueled and rearmed using stores from his downed wingman's aircraft and continued to fly multiple gun runs straight into the heavy machine gun fire placing devastating fires upon the enemy.

Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to David F. Cooper, Chief Warrant Officer Five, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 27 November 2006, while serving with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), during combat operations against an armed enemy during aerial flight as an AH-6 Flight Lead Pilot for the Joint Task Force in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Without regard for his personal safety, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Cooper continued to provide effective fires for the Joint Task Force ground forces despite the presence of effective enemy fire. His actions destroyed several enemy positions, which prevented the ground forces from sustaining heavy casualties and allowed them to hold their position. His superb actions in flight, especially at one point as the lone air support aircraft under terrific enemy fire, contributed greatly to the mission success. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Cooper's distinctive accomplishments are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Joint Task Force and the United States Army.

Personal Awards:

Distinguished Service Cross (War on Terrorism)

Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross

2@ Bronze Stars

7@ Air Medals w/V

3@ Army Commendation Medals w/V

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

visits

NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

Bedford, Virginia



The following is the tentative itinerary for the D DAY trip:

8:30 AM Depart the Holiday Inn (sharp)

10:00 AM Arrive Bedford Visitor Center
Located on D DAY property)
(view 10 minute video)
RESTROOM STOP

10:20 AM Reboard motorcoach for trip up hill to Memorial

10:30 AM Break into smaller groups as directed & begin tour

11:30 AM One hour on your own to re-visit areas of interest

12:30 PM Depart for Olde Liberty Station
(Bedford's original Railway Station)
(Think "Depot" in Staunton)
Seated luncheon in private dining hall

2:30 PM Depart for Holiday Inn

4:00 PM Arrive Holiday Inn, remember to thank your driver

All-inclusive cost for the day is \$60.00 Included is Transportation, D Day Memorial Admission and Tour, and a seated Luncheon at Olde Liberty Station.

Not included is a gratuity for your driver, please take care of him.

Join fellow AMA cadets, families and friends to visit this outstanding national memorial honoring those US Service Troops took part in what became the defeat of German troops occupying much of Western Europe. The landing of troops on the shores of Normandy France on June 6, 1944 was a herculean task and resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 Allied Soldiers and Sailors.

Over 6,500 US military were killed in action and most are buried at the US Cemetery. At least three former AMA Cadets gave the ultimate on that fateful day. One of those Cadets was Colonel Hubert Mathews, an AMA & USMA graduate. Col, Mathews is featured in the main museum introduction video.

Bedford, Virginia was chosen as the site for the D-Day Memorial due to the fact that Bedford lost more soldiers per capita than any other city or town in the USA. Bedford lost 22 young men on that day of invasion. This year marks the 75th anniversary of that heroic day.

Arrangements have been made to transport our AMA family to Bedford via deluxe motorcoach, explore the visitor center, and then take a private guided tour of the actual memorial site, named for the actual codename used by Allied Commanders, OPERATION OVERLORD.

A wonderful luncheon awaits the AMA attendees at the historic OLDE LIBERTY STATION in the town of LIBERTY, VA.

BEST AUCTION EVER !

and raffle

View more photos and additional information about each item on our website.

Once again this year Shelby Rogerville will be conducting the silent auction on Saturday at the Gym. She and her Ladies of AMA will be offering deluxe gift baskets along with **other items you will bring**. If you have questions, Shelby can be reached at srogerville@outlook.com or 804-561-1118

Many premium items pictured below have already been donated for the silent and online auctions and raffles. Watch for details in an upcoming Bayonet, the email newsletter and Facebook.



Engraved replica AMA Officer Saber with cherrywood stained wall mount.



Engraved Rock River 1911 / .45acp



Engraved Ka-Bar knife



7 Night Caribbean cruise for two on board
Royal Caribbean International



American Airlines

American Airlines package of 2 First Class and another package of 2 Main Cabin round trip tickets for use on flights within the domestic 48 states and the Caribbean



Skis and bindings



30-06 Savage rifle with Bushnell scope



Authentic Helmet of the
Dallas Cowboys



Framed Collection of Every
Superbowl Ticket



Dak Prescott
framed and autographed



Michael Irvin
framed and autographed

HONORING WWII AND ALL VETERANS



We wish to acknowledge and thank American Airlines, the official airline for Reunion 2019, for their very generous donation of air miles to provide transportation for our guest speakers and to provide two pairs of tickets to be raffled or auctioned off.

Book your next flight at aa.com.



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Golf

If Golf is your thing, gather Friday morning at the Waynesboro Country Club for a 9 AM Shotgun start. We will depart the Holiday Inn at 8:00. It's a four-person scramble (Captain's choice) will all proceeds going to the AMA Alumni Foundation. Anyone is welcome to join in.

Use every player's tee shot twice. Lowest score wins! 1st, 2nd and last place prized will be awarded plus longest drive, closest to the pin, and best putt.

FEES: \$100 per person which includes 18 holes, green tees, cart rental, box lunch, refreshments, goody bag, and a donation to the AMA Alumni Foundation.

Your help in gathering things for the goody bags is needed: golf balls, tees, towels, caps, umbrellas, even cash!

Contact Paul Poluito, '73, at
cpp2q@virginia.edu

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

The annual Sporting Clay Shoot will be held on Friday April 20. Start time is Noon at the Flying Rabbit Range in Harrisonburg.

\$25 is for registration which all goes to the Association. Targets, ammo and if necessary, gun rental will be handled by the Flying Rabbit. Folks can expect to spend about \$50.

For more info,
contact Blaine Clarke, '72, at
blaine.clarke@comcast.net.

He can and will give you the full scoop, including costs, rules, location directions, lunch plans before, etc.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
Postage and Fees Paid
Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Foundation



P.O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437



visitstanton.com

Stanton is no longer the sleepy little town nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Over the last quarter century, this town we remember as a shy little out-of-the-way spot along the Valley Pike or I-81 has grown to become a destination for artists, historians, actors, musicians, and foodies.

You can see this as evidenced by the growth of businesses and especially hotels along I-81. Three new hotels have been built in just the last year.

What does this mean to us? It means we can no longer expect to receive welcoming rates at any venues in town. Accommodations have simply become more expensive over the years, and we must realize that we had a really good deal at the Holiday Inn for the last 20 years. Those days are over.

We were able to negotiate reasonable rates again this year, but the room rates and the facilities rates have gone up and will continue to rise of the coming years.

Trust me when I say that the organizing committee agonized over rates this year. We feel we have made the best, most cost effective arrangements possible.

- Often called the “Queen City” of the Shenandoah Valley, Stanton boasts six separate historic districts.
- A deep ethic of preservation, combined with an unusually strong cultural climate, has been cultivated in Stanton for decades.
- Historic Stanton Foundation provides free, guided walking tours every Saturday morning from May through October.
- Stanton’s rich history of arts and culture goes back to its days as a nineteenth-century rail junction and a center for travelers to stop over and enjoy opera, vaudeville, and rollicking nightlife. That tradition lives on today in Stanton’s arts and culture district, called the “Red Brick District.”
- Live music festivals entertain all summer long – celebrating all kinds of music traditions, including jazz, Americana, blues, and classical.
- The nationally acclaimed American Shakespeare Center offers top-notch performances year round. The 300-seat Blackfriars Playhouse is the world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s original indoor theatre.
- The living-history Frontier Culture Museum offers an insider’s look at life in early America.
- Stanton is the birthplace of the 28th U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson and the home of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.
- Mary Baldwin University, a women’s college that features a number of unique programs, including the Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership and the Program for the Exceptionally Gifted, is located on the hilltops above downtown.